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THE MINOR PROPHETS
BOOK 7 – MICAH

Micah was a contemporary with Isaiah. He lived in Judea and prophesied against both Israel (Samaria) and Judea (Jerusalem). He was present when Assyria destroyed Israel in 722 B.C., and he foretold the Babylonian conquest in 605 to 586 B.C. which was more than a hundred years before it happened. He also predicted the restoration of Israel's (Judea) Babylonian captivity for Jerusalem. There was no such prediction for Israel (Samaria). The very last verse of Micah in chapter in verse 7:20 affirms God's covenant to Abraham that the land would be restored to them. This was fulfilled in 1948 when Israel once again became a nation after 1,878 years of non-existence.

There are a couple of remarkable other things about Micah that I wish to point out. Just as Jesus had quoted Isaiah 61:1-3 in the synagogue, so did he also quote Micah 7:6 as we read in Matthew 10:35-36. He speaks of family members turning against those of their own immediate household.

Just as Isaiah 53 contained remarkable Messianic prophecies, Micah also contains the most unique of all Messianic prophecies in chapters 4 and 5. Micah 5:2 is the only place in scripture where the exact location is given for the birth of Messiah, (Jesus) in that he would be born in Bethlehem Ephratah. Ephratah is an ancient name for Bethlehem, but the newer name Bethlehem is also cited along with it.

Micah 4:8 goes even further in citing the specific location at Bethlehem where the baby Jesus would be laid. It specifies the ***"tower of the flock, the stronghold of the daughter of Zion."*** The tower of the flock was the Migdal Eder, the sheepfold at the edge of Bethlehem. This was the stronghold which kept the temple sacrificial lambs which were sacrificed in nearby Jerusalem. It was in the sheepfold where baby Jesus was laid in the same manger where a newborn sacrificial lamb was laid. The lambs were laid in swaddling to be sanctified unto God unto their future sacrifice. Jesus was wrapped in swaddling clothes just like the sacrificial lambs were, ultimately pointing towards his sacrificial death as the lamb without blemish.

There is also an interesting correlation between Micah 5:3 and Revelation 12 verses 1-2; 5-6; and 13-17.

There is no question that Micah's prophecies were among the most astounding ones of the Old Testament, both in relation to Messiah, and of the end times, in addition to his own era.